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LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter from H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to Your Excellency concerning the tragic situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would appreciate if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

The sad news coming from eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina shock any freedom-loving person, and raise a question in mind as to when the bloodshed and genocide of Muslims by Serbian forces is going to end? During a year and so which have passed since the Serbian aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina and the genocide of non-Serb population there and in other parts of former Yugoslavia, various resolutions have been passed by the Security Council. Unfortunately, despite these resolutions, the war is fiercely continued, leaving no clear indication as to the termination of Serbian crimes, and the establishment of a just peace in near future. There is no doubt that the main reason behind the Serbian disregard for the resolutions of the Security Council is the lack of strong resolutions as well as insufficient guarantee to implement them.

Security Council resolutions 819 and 820 have been passed at a time when Serbs, regardless of previous United Nations resolutions, continue to slaughter people around the besieged city of Srebrenica in order to strengthen their positions. Although these resolutions contain positive elements, they still lack sufficient guarantee to be implemented. It is to be feared that the Serbs will pave the way for further aggression and expansionism by killing Muslim people in that city and elsewhere. With access to all kinds of weapons during the preceding year, the Serbs have continued the carnage of people, attacked the houses and shelters of civilians and completed their savagery by raping women and girls.

The public opinion of Muslims throughout the world is deeply concerned with the ongoing events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and stands to evaluate the reactions of international organizations, particularly those of the United Nations. The establishment of no-fly zone over Bosnia and Herzegovina has certainly been a worthwhile move, but it is clear that most of the carnage has been done by weapons that are utilized in land battles. Therefore, to stop this carnage, it is necessary to prevent Serbian land movements which have not been included in any of the resolutions passed by the Security Council.

The arms embargo against the legitimate government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has practically deprived the Muslims of their inherent right of self-defence. Furthermore, the impossibility of rapid dispatch of humanitarian assistance has aggravated the condition. These two factors have greatly undermined the capacity of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to resist aggression. Aware of this fact, the Serbs have further increased the intensity of their attacks.

Now that the besiegement of the oppressed people in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been tightened from all sides, it is expected that the United Nations, in a historic and decisive measure, lift the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina, and establish safe air and land corridors for unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance in order to alleviate, to some extent, the prolonged agony of the defenceless people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under such

circumstances, at least a balance is struck between the two parties involved and the people are allowed to exercise their legitimate right of self-defence.

It is acknowledged that establishing a durable and just peace in the region is subject to attending to the legitimate demands of the oppressed people of this unequal war, and that imposing the desires of the aggressor upon the weakened party will lead to a new crisis making the situation even more complicated.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to continue to exchange views with Your Excellency in order to give effects to its role in putting an end to Serbian aggression against the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to achieve peace.

(Signed) Dr. Ali Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Tehran

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